GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:411
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government`s proposal to enact `Energy Conservation Bill, 2000` that seeks to make electricity reforms mandatory for State Governments have been rejected by most of the State Governments;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the new steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the new power reforms in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER
(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)
(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO.411 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 24.4.2000 REGARDING ENERGY CONSERVATIONAL BILL.

(a) to (c) : The Energy Conservation Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 24.2.2000. It addresses the issue of efficient use of energy and its conservation. The Bill seeks to provide for statutory measures to establish statutory authority by the name of Bureau of Energy Efficiency (Bureau) and confer upon the Central Government, State Government and the Bureau certain powers to enforce the said measures for efficient use of energy and its conservation. The Bill has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy.

The Ministry of Power had asked the NCAER as a Consultant, to suggest legislative changes it considered necessary to accelerate the reform process. The NCAER has submitted a draft Electricity Bill to replace the existing three electricity laws (The Indian Electricity Act, 1910, The Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948 and The Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998).

The draft Electricity Bill, 2000 as submitted by the NCAER has been circulated to all concerned including the State Governments for their comments. Detailed discussions have been held with States, State Electricity Boards, Regulatory Commissions, Experts, Chambers of Commerce and Private Utilities. The NCAER has since revised the draft in the light of the discussions and comments. The revised draft is now being discussed with concerned stake-holders.

Government of India has taken a proactive role in reforming State Electricity Boards so that they function on commercial lines. Power Ministers` Conference held on 26.2.2000 resolved that reform must be undertaken with determination, vigor and a sense of urgency. The key elements of the Reforms Strategy

i. Energy audit at all levels;

ii. Time bound programme of 100% metering of all consumers by December, 2001;

iii. Reduction and finally, elimination of power theft within a specified time frame.

iv. Strengthening/upgradation of sub-transmission and distribution system by taking sub-station as a limit on a priority basis.